

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows, this listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 - 8 (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) A method for operating a device, comprising:

subjecting items retained in the device to a drying step after the items have undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the items, the step of drying including drawing at least one of air from a treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column and thereafter guiding the air that has passed through the sorption column into a treatment chamber, the sorption column containing reversibly dehydratable material that operates to withdraw moisture from air during the passage of the air through the sorption column; and

effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column via drawing at least one of air from the treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column by means of an air accelerator means, subjecting air passing through the sorption column to heating, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the items retained in the device and the items themselves.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating air

during its passage through the sorption column by heat of condensation and a selected one of additional heating via a heater and no additional heating via a heater.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein the passage of air is undertaken during a programme step using treatment liquid to be heated.
12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating air during its passage through the sorption column and thereafter passing the air through a heat storage device for cooling in order to intermediately store the heat used for desorption in the heat storage device, and further including thereafter passing air for heating purposes through the heat storage device and into the treatment chamber.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via a heater in a pipe to the sorption column.
14. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein at least one of the treatment liquid and the items are heated by the heated air and effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes at least partly delivering the desorbed moisture from the sorption column into at least one of the treatment chamber or the heat storage device.
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material includes heating the air via the heat of condensation in the sorption column.

16. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the step of guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber includes cooling the air that has been heated at a location intermediate the sorption column and the treatment chamber.
17. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein cooling the air that has been heated at a location intermediate the sorption column and the treatment chamber includes contacting the air that has been heated with a liquid having a temperature less than the air such that at least some evaporation of the liquid occurs, whereupon a cooling of the air takes place as a result of evaporation cooling.
18. (New) The method according to claim 9 and further comprising a step of drawing air from at least one of a source of air consisting of air from the treatment chamber and a source of air consisting of ambient air through the sorption column by means of an air accelerator means after the step of effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column, this step including drawing such air through the sorption column from the respective source of air substantially without imparting heat to the air from after the air exits the respective source of air up to its entry into the sorption column, the air drawn through the sorption column being heated within the sorption column via heat of condensation as liquid is condensed from the air and absorbed by sorption material in the sorption column, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the items retained in the device and the items themselves.
19. (New) A method for operating a dishwasher, the method comprising:

subjecting crockery retained in the dishwasher to a drying step after the crockery has undergone a treatment step as a result of which moisture remains on the crockery, the step of drying including drawing at least one of air from a treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column and thereafter guiding the air that has passed through the sorption column into a treatment chamber, the sorption column containing reversibly dehydratable material that operates to withdraw moisture from air during the passage of the air through the sorption column; and

effecting desorption of the reversibly dehydratable material in the sorption column via drawing at least one of air from the treatment chamber and ambient air through a sorption column by means of an air accelerator means, subjecting air passing through the sorption column to heating, and guiding the air that has been heated as it passed through the sorption column into the treatment chamber, whereupon the air guided into the treatment chamber heats at least one of a treatment liquid to be applied to the crockery retained in the device and the crockery themselves.